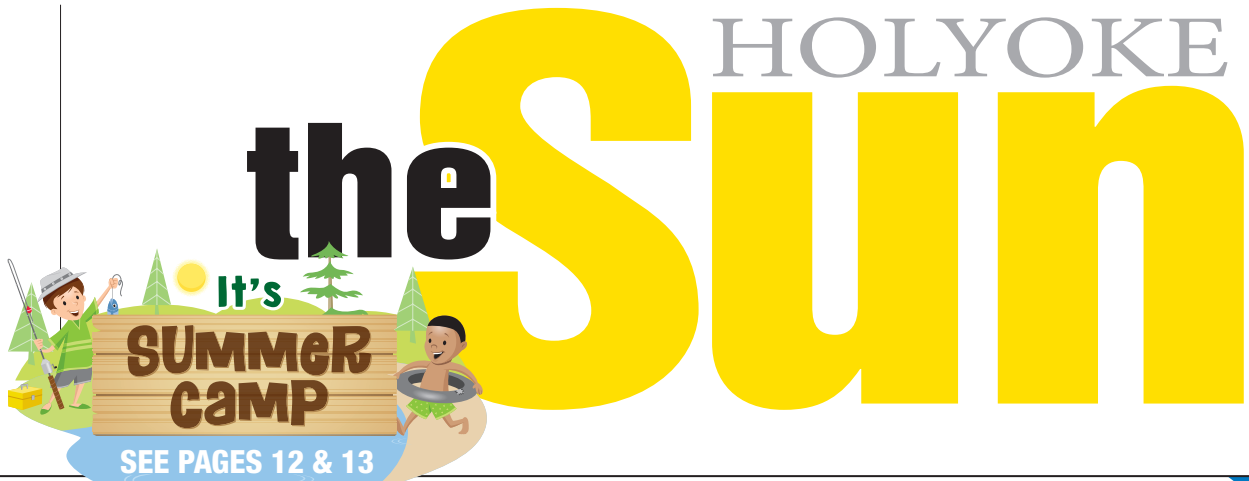


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KNIGHTS HOOP ACTION



Brian Cristobal goes for the hoop during a Holyoke boys basketball win over Belchertown last week. Boys basketball is one of several sports happening during the Fall 2 season in Holyoke.

Photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Murphy named acting mayor

*Ward 2 Councilor
Terence Murphy
was sworn in
Tuesday morning*

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com



Terence Murphy

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke City Council voted to make Ward 2 Councilor Terence Murphy the Acting Mayor until the November election.

The vote took place during a special meeting of the Holyoke City Council on Monday night.

Murphy defeated fellow City Councilor Peter Tallman to head to Room 1 for the next several months. Murphy will be immediately challenged with pulling together a budget for fiscal year 2022, deciding how \$29 million in federal stimulus funds will be used, and filling a number of vacancies in city hall.

Gov. Charlie Baker signed a home rule petition, which allowed the city council to name one of its own members as the acting mayor. Murphy also gets to maintain his seat and vote on the city council. However, he may have to abstain from certain votes to

avoid conflicts of interest.

Murphy will remain as acting mayor until the November election. The winner of the election will be sworn in immediately and serve for two months, and then begin a full, four-year term in January.

There were only two ballots needed in order to name Murphy the acting mayor.

Murphy won the first ballot 8-5, receiving votes from himself, Council President Todd McGee, and Councilors Linda Vacon, Joseph McGiverin, Michael Sullivan, David Bartley, James Leahy, and Howard Greaney.

Councilors Rebecca Lisi, Libby Hernandez, Gladys Lebron-Martinez, and Juan Anderson-Burgos voted for Tallman, along with Tallman himself.

Following the 8-5 vote, a second ballot took place, more symbolic in nature, and that vote was unanimous for Murphy.

Murphy began to work fast following his appointment.

He was sworn in Tuesday morning by City Clerk Brenna

Murphy McGee.

He is off to a bit of a head start as the previous acting mayor, McGee, filled the open solicitor role, naming Lisa Ball as the acting city solicitor. He also brought in former auditor Brian Smith to assist in the budget process.

The council also allowed Murphy and Tallman to meet with city department heads while awaiting Baker to sign the legislation. The meetings allowed for either candidate to have an idea of what issues they were facing if and when they took office.

McGee served as the acting mayor for just a few weeks. He took over on Friday, March 26 following the resignation of Mayor Alex Morse. Morse went to Provincetown to be the new administrator in that town.

McGee, however, was unable to serve long-term due to his work commitments. However, there was no further line of succession beyond the council president stepping in. The council also does not have a vice president. It is not clear the city council will address that issue in the future.

The council has an order filed and in process to create a recall process for elected officials, including the mayor.

Vaccine clinic opens up at senior center

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Terry Murphy was sworn in on Tuesday, Apr. 13 and is already hitting the streets for events, getting right in to the work flow of being acting mayor and starting with a COVID Vaccine Clinic visit.

Murphy accompanied Board of Health Director Sean Gonsalves at the Holyoke Senior Center, to promote the centers Vaccine Clinic that runs every Wed. for all eligible residents of Holyoke. The center is offering 400 vaccines for each week, with a goal of administering all of them to residents.

“I want to promote the opportunity we have here, and that as many people as possible take advantage of the opportunity and visit the center on Wednesdays,” Murphy said. “I want to emphasize that we want to make it as easy and comfortable as possible. I’ve had the vaccine and it’s the same one everyone else is getting, it gives significant protection against the

virus and we need as many people vaccinated as soon as possible to get back to normal.”

He added that there are minimal side effects from the vaccine, and encourages everyone who’s eligible to make an appointment to receive one.

Gonsalves said he is attending the clinic because he’s working and helping out anyone who needs it, while Murphy visited to talk to people and promote the clinic as an important asset to the city. Both are excited to be able to offer the vaccine and the clinic to the residents of Holyoke and they want to get the word out that there is another location, close to the downtown area, where people can reliably go for the vaccine.

Gonsalves describes the clinic as a safe and smooth flowing operation, and the Senior Center makes appointments in person. This aspect eliminates the common issues with making an appointment online; residents can either visit the Senior Center in person and make a vac-

cine appointment at the front desk, or they can call the Center and make an appointment that way. This helps the smoothness of the Center’s operations, and allows them to reach more people who aren’t as tech-savvy as others. People can visit the Senior Center at 291 Pine Street in Holyoke, or they can call 413-322-5625.

Although the clinic is being held at the Senior Center, it is not exclusively for seniors. All eligible residents are welcome to book an appointment, that will include added eligibility on Apr. 19 of ages 16 and up. “The Senior Center has kind of slowed their operations down due to COVID, so they have some time for us to use what is really a great space,” Gonsalves said. “These clinics are going to be weekly on Wednesdays, right now there’s about 400 doses a week and they do live booking here.”

He emphasized the importance of getting the word out about the Senior

See CLINIC, page 5

Candidates spar during subcommittee meeting

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – While Acting Mayor Terence Murphy is getting down to the regular business of the city since being sworn in earlier this week (see related story), controversy over who will win the mayor’s seat in November is already picking up.

Councilors Rebecca Lisi and Michael Sullivan have both announced runs for the mayor’s seat and the two had a run-in with each other at a recent Ordinance Committee meeting.

Lisi, who chairs the committee, accused Sullivan of hijacking the meeting and using it as a platform to advance his political agenda against her.

In a press release, Lisi’s campaign stated Sullivan interrupted the meeting, and is willing to break the rules to win they mayor’s seat.

“He used council committee Zoom meeting to raise issues that had nothing to do with the meeting’s agenda and try to steal some political gain for himself,”

Lisi said. “He attacked me for accepting campaign contributions from principals who are connected to marijuana companies and demanded that I return the money and step down as Ordinance Committee chairwoman.”

She went on to decry Sullivan’s tactics as boorish and demand Council President Todd McGee take action.

“Sullivan’s ploy to steal political points in this way was unprecedented for a member of the Holyoke City Council,” said Lisi. “His bullying, barging into a committee meeting for his own political gain, violated rules of City Council decorum. I call on City Council President Todd McGee to censure Sullivan for his boorishness. Sullivan’s ploy to smear an opponent is a cheap attempt for attention at a time when Holyokers are sick of such ‘old boy network’ politics.

“But Sullivan going negative is no surprise. He has aligned himself in his desire to

See CANDIDATES, page 5

Stop & Shop makes donation to Providence Ministries

HOLYOKE – Inspired by local heroes helping to feed those in need during the pandemic, Stop & Shop, Procter & Gamble (P&G), Coca-Cola, Hershey’s and Mondelez today announced a donation of \$100,000 to hunger-relief organizations located in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. The donation is a result of the ‘United in Strength’ campaign that ran this past summer and spotlighted Coca-Cola, Mondelez, P&G and Hershey’s support of Stop & Shop’s efforts to fight hunger in its local communities. Locally, the donation will support Providence Ministries in Holyoke, Mass., with a \$7,500 grant.

The four CPG brands each pledged \$25,000 to help Stop & Shop fight hun-

ger. Of that total, \$25,000 will be donated to Feeding America, the nation’s largest hunger-relief organization. The remaining \$75,000 will be divided among 10 of Stop & Shop’s local food pantry partners who are on the front lines in the fight against hunger. The money will be used to provide meals and other necessities to those in need.

“Providence Ministries plays an essential role in providing food assistance to Holyoke families in need,” said Joan Maylor, Store Manager of Holyoke Stop & Shop on Lincoln Street. “As many continue to face new challenges due to the impact of COVID-19, we’re proud to work with P&G, Hershey’s, Coca-Cola and Mondelez in providing additional support to this local organization that is so

integral to the Holyoke community.”

Providence Ministries has been providing services to Holyoke residents since 1980. Western Massachusetts individuals and families rely on Providence Ministries for assistance with access to food, shelter, transitional housing, addiction services, and advocacy. Providence Ministries aids in the operation of Margaret’s Pantry, providing food access to those in need. In 2020, Margaret’s Pantry served over 22,000 individual and provided over 1.8 million pounds of food to those facing food insecurity across the community of Holyoke.

“We are so honored that Stop and Shop would team up with us here at Providence Ministries to ensure that everyone in need is able to access food,

shelter and basic needs,” said Jennie Adamczyk, Executive Director of Providence Ministries for the Needy. “The need has increased drastically over this last year, but that doesn’t mean that the funds have, so when community partners and friends, like Stop and Shop, step up and help it makes all of the difference to our organization and those we serve!”

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has increased dramatically nationwide. In Western Massachusetts, it is projected that 1 in 7 adults and 1 in 4 children face food insecurity on a daily basis. This donation will support Providence Ministries and other recipient organizations in helping fight local hunger in the communities Stop & Shop serves.

‘Courageous Actions’ theme of Women’s Leadership lunch

HOLYOKE – Dr. Sarah Perez McAdoo, MD, population health capstone director at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and Jessica Collins, executive director of the Public Health Institute of Western Mass., will be the featured presenters at the April 28 session of the Holyoke Community College Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series.

Perez McAdoo and Collins will lead a discussion titled “Courageous Actions” on Wed., April 28, from 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.

The 2021 Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series takes place over Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Participants join a group of women lead-

ers to discuss current issues and ideas to help their leadership development. They also have the opportunity to build a network of women leaders to help them navigate their careers.

Each lunch-time event features two presenters leading discussions on different topics:

April 28: “Courageous Actions” – Perez McAdoo and Collins.

May 26: “Leading Through Change” – Margaret Tantillo, executive director, Dress for Success Western Massachusetts; Jess Roncarati-Howe, program director, Dress for Success Western Massachusetts.

Previous sessions have welcomed presenters Luz Lopez, exec-

utive director of MetroCare of Springfield, and Annamarie Golden, director of Community Relations for Baystate Health (“Compassion Fatigue”) and Lynn Turner, coach and business strategist, Clear Vision Alliance, Inc.; Moe Belliveau, executive director, Easthampton Chamber of Commerce (“Maintaining Power and Grace While Glass Ceilings Are Being Shattered”), and Jeff Hayden, vice president of HCC’s division of Business and Community Services, and Jason Pacheco, manager of Workforce Planning for Baystate Health (“Women’s Leadership from a Male Perspective”).

Sessions are \$20 each. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

Pre-K program still has openings

HOLYOKE – Please call the Enrollment Center at 413-534-2000 to learn about where space is available. You can then enroll your child online at enrollholyoke.com! We offer a variety of programs such as part day, full day, dual language, and Valley Opportunity Council-operated PreK. HPS offers free preschool in the Donahue, E.N. White, Kelly, McMahon, Metcalf, Morgan, and Sullivan schools.

To apply for the Preschool lottery for SY21-22, students must be a minimum of 3 years old on or before September 1, and be a resident of Holyoke.

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Homework House to host sixth annual adult spelling bee

HOLYOKE – It’s time to grab your dictionaries and to spell success for Holyoke children! The Sixth Annual Adult Spelling Bee to benefit Homework House will be held on Thursday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. online over Zoom and YouTube Live. This annual event is one of the major fundraisers for Homework House which has been providing free academic tutoring and mentoring for 15 years to school age children in Holyoke.

This year, Homework House is joining with The Spelling Bee Company from Los Angeles to create a virtual event that is a spelling bee, pledge-a-thon, and comedy show all rolled into one. Ten teams of enthusiastic spellers

will gather on the virtual stage along with The Spelling Bee Company. The professional performers and comedians from the Spelling Bee Company will keep the spellers on their toes and the laughs coming as the evening’s emcees and Spelling Bee judges.

Each team will gather pledges in advance of the event that they can use to ‘cheat’, ‘phone a friend’, or as a ‘life-line’ during the Bee. The more pledges they raise, the more cheats a team can buy. The winning team gets a trophy and bragging rights as the best spellers in Holyoke. There will also be prizes for the best team costume and the best team name. The evening is destined to be a smash hit!

Peoples Bank is the Bee’s Knees Sponsor of the event. Additional sponsorship opportunities and team registration are now available.

Homework House serves children, ages 6 – 12. Since its beginning, it has offered free tutoring and mentoring. During the pandemic, it continues its services virtually. Tutors, many who are volunteers from local colleges and the community, provide individualized instruction to strengthen children’s educational learning and retention.

To register for a sponsorship or to register a team, please email Suzanne Boniface at sboniface@homework-householyoke.org or call her at 413-265-1017.



Alyssa McBride, Luis Soria and Emily Barber took home the prize for best costume at the 2018 Adult Spelling Bee.

File photo

Changes made to MCAS testing

HOLYOKE – Commissioner Riley is recommending to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to amend state graduation requirements for the Class of 2022. Upon Board approval this will mean that the class of 2022 (this year’s 11th grade students) will not be required to take MCAS. Additionally, the timeline for administering the tests in grades 3 through 8 and 10 will be extended until June 11.

“Current juniors and seniors may still take the test this spring to qualify for the Adams Scholarship and Koplik

Certificate of Mastery. Juniors who do not participate this spring will be able to test for scholarships during the retest period in fall 2021.”

“Additionally, DESE will offer remote administration of the English language arts, mathematics, and science assessments this spring for grades 3 through 8 to accommodate families who chose to have their children learn remotely through the end of the school year. The Department will provide school districts with additional information in the coming weeks.”

Museum to host trivia contest

HOLYOKE – From May 2 through May 5, Wistariahurst will host an online trivia contest curated by Wistariahurst intern, Alex Santiago. Come learn more about activist Carlos Vega and the Latinx history of Holyoke in this new trivia event! The contest is free to enter and fun prizes will be awarded. Registration is required at www.Wistariahurst.org.

Participants are invited to explore a PowerPoint presentation and play an online trivia game related to “The Carlos Vega Collection of Latino

History in Holyoke.” The PowerPoint and the trivia game will be available both in English and in Spanish and will be posted on www.Wistariahurst.org from Sunday, May 2 through Wednesday, May 5.

The trivia contest will conclude with a Zoom event on May 6 at 6:30 p.m., dedicated to discussing the trivia answers and awarding fun prizes to the winners of the Spanish and English trivia contests. A link to the trivia contest and to the award ceremony will be sent out to all who register.

Holyoke Community College Foundation scholarship deadline April 16

HOLYOKE - The deadline to apply for a Holyoke Community College Foundation scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year is Friday, April 16.

More than \$245,000 in awards is available for incoming, continuing and transferring HCC students through more than 150 different scholarships.

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible for scholarships, which are awarded

through the HCC Foundation, HCC’s nonprofit fundraising corporation.

“Now more than ever, as more students and families face financial insecurity due to COVID-19, scholarships are essential to helping students succeed,” said Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. “Amid this challenging year, our donors have responded with extraordinary generosity, and we are so grateful for their con-

tinued belief in HCC students and our mission.”

Applicants only need to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and

scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, the HCC Foundation awarded scholarships to more than 200 students.

To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, please go to: www.hcc.edu/scholarships.

Questions should be directed to the HCC Foundation office at 413-552-2182, or email the scholarship team at scholarships@hcc.edu.

COVID-19 testing at HCC extended

HOLYOKE – Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue

Building on the college’s main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>.




The COVID-19 test site at Holyoke Community College will continue to offer drive-through testing until the end of June.

Submitted photo

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Cancer bike-A-Thon taking place all next week

REGION – Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) is hosting its first Annual Bike for Prevention Bike-A-Thon virtually on a local and national scale from Monday, April 19 to Sunday, April 25. The Bike-A-Thon will feature national chairs, Jen Hanks and Ellen Noble, as well as local chair, Walter Rodin Jr.

Jen Hanks is an elite mountain bike racer and two-time breast cancer survivor. Over the course of her treatment, Jen has undergone a total of ten surgeries, two rounds of chemotherapy, and radiation. Hanks comments “Currently, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. I was one of those women when at 35 years old I was diagnosed with breast cancer and two years later had a recurrence. Through MBCC’s work of advocating against the environmental causes of breast cancer and stopping it before it starts, I am hopeful that far fewer people will face a

breast cancer diagnosis in the future.”

Ellen Noble is a professional cyclocross and mountain bike racer. Noble has won four national championships and 2 Pan-American Championships; she hopes to compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics! Ellen shares, “I lost my dad, Tom Noble, to stage IV colon cancer in 2012. Given my personal connection with my own health, as well as my connection to cancer because of losing my dad, I feel very connected to the mission of MBCC and am very excited to work with them on prevention in such meaningful ways.”

Walter Rodin Jr. is the manager of Dyer Electric Company, a family business located in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Walter is an avid long-distance bicyclist and will be assembling a team to join him in raising funds for prevention. Walter comments, “We as a family have had to fight cancer hard and together. Cancer does not discriminate; it can

affect anyone, regardless of their age, ethnicity, gender identity, religion or orientation. Success in beating this deadly disease takes great pride and courage.”

Cheryl Osimo, MBCC’s Executive Director, says, “We are very excited and grateful to Jen, Ellen, and Walter for supporting this inaugural event, especially since they all understand the importance of raising awareness of cancer-causing agents in the environment. It is our hope that others will be inspired by their passion and activism to join MBCC in biking to raise funds for breast cancer prevention starting April 19th.” Participants can ride 1 mile or more, either outdoors on their favorite route or indoors on a stationary bike. For those interested who do not have a bike, MBCC invites them to participate on foot and either walk or run any distance of their choosing. All registered participants will receive a free t-shirt.

Registration for this virtual Bike-A-



A virtual bike-a-thon is scheduled for next week to raise money for breast cancer research.

Submitted photo

Thon is: \$40 for Individuals, \$150 for Families (up to 5 members), and \$25 for Students. All proceeds from the event will benefit breast cancer prevention.

New app launches, aids Connecticut River paddlers

GREENFIELD – A new smartphone app launched on World Water Day, March 22, to help paddlers navigate the Connecticut River, particularly for multi-day paddles.

The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail is a unique, water-based trail that includes a series of primitive campsites and river access points spanning over 400 miles of the Connecticut River through NH, VT, MA and CT.

CRPT is managed by a collaborative of more than 30 nonprofit organizations and state agencies, including the Connecticut River Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Vermont River Conservancy. Those interested in downloading the app can find it in CRC’s online store at www.ctriver.org/shop, or search “Guthook Guides” in your smartphone app store.

“We chose to launch this new app on World Water Day, a day where people around the world recognize the importance of water in our lives,” says Gabriel Chevalier, CRPT Coordinator. “The Connecticut River is the longest river in New England and enriches our lives in many ways. It offers many recreational opportunities that promote healthy communities and boost local economies. This new app offers pad-

dlers an easy-to use digital paddling guide to navigate the CRPT campgrounds, access points, rapids and other resources along the Connecticut River.”

Proceeds from the \$9.99 app and waterproof printed maps are used to fund trail stewardship projects. The app was developed in partnership with Atlas/Guthook Guides, who offer similar app-based guides for other well-known trails like the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail. The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail map is available as an in-app purchase in the Guthook Guides app, a free download from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail is managed by a collaborative of organizations, guided by a shared vision. Partners assist with trail planning and development, building and stewarding primitive campsites, improving access points and portage trails, and disseminating information to visitors. Campsite development, as well as ongoing stewardship, is carried out by volunteers, scout troops, and youth stewardship corps who work together to mitigate the impacts of recreation use. To learn more, visit www.connecticutriverpaddlerstrail.org.

Rotary Club hosting virtual wine tasting

WEST SPRINGFIELD – In recognition of the local and global reach of Rotary’s philanthropy, the Rotary Club of West Springfield is inviting all to raise a glass for a good cause.

The Rotary Club and the expert staff at Table & Vine will host a Virtual Wine Tasting on Friday, April 30. Participants will be tasting and learning about three different wines from around the world with an optional selection of paired cheeses. All profits will benefit the local community as well as the global causes of Rotary International.

Rotary’s Virtual Wine Tasting Fundraiser
Friday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

“A Table and Vine wine aficionado will teach us about the origin and development of each wine as we smell, swirl, sip and repeat. You may compliment your tasting with a delicious selection of cheese chosen specifically for us by the Table & Vine cheese monger. There is also an option to enjoy the presentation without wine or cheese,” said Rotarian Lisa Grenier, event organizer.

Pricing is per household:
•Wine Only: \$89.99
•Wine & Cheese: \$109.99 (available to the first 50 participants)
•Enjoy show only (no wine or cheese): \$25

Deadline to reserve space is April 25 at 6pm.

Visit www.westspringfieldrotary-club.com for reservations.

On April 26, upon payment, participants will receive an email with a link for the Zoom invitation and instructions on picking up the wine and cheese at Table & Vine, beginning April 28 and up to 6 p.m. on April 30.

Rotary International is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

The Rotary Club of West Springfield, under the leadership of President Mike Bertera meets every other Tuesday at 12:15 via Zoom until we can safely gather again at Storowton Tavern.

UMass Theater’s COVEN-19 witches return in a new ritual for spring

AMHERST – The springtime significance of May Day and Beltane is the creative jumping-off point for a new edition of COVEN-19, Or, Magicks for Unprecedented Times, running April 29, 30 and May 1 live online at UMass Theater as part of our Rights of Spring festival.

COVEN-19, pun very much intended, is a community of artistic witches who are called upon to own their individual and collective power, make meaning out of utter chaos, and manifest tangible, seismic change.

As in October, the community will



COVEN-19, a free series of events will run from April 22 to May 2.

Courtesy image

fuse witchcraft and theater into an online, immersive format that aims to heal some of the collective hurt and grief of the past year. However, this will be a different performance, as this spring’s ritual will be performed in honor of Beltane, or May Day.

“For me personally, magic is a source of healing and introspection,” dramaturgy grad student and co-creator Maegan Clearwood said. She originally proposed this project as a way “to be with other like-minded people and figure out how to make the world a better place.”

In keeping with that ethos, this is a devised piece, meaning that rather than working from a script with a single leader, the company built the work by exploring questions and themes together. “It’s a really nice opportunity just for us to experiment with ways of making theatre that are egalitarian and collaborative,” says fellow grad student and co-creator Percival Hornak.

The time is ripe for magick-making! COVEN-19 is part of The Rights of Spring, a theater festival presented by the University of Massachusetts Department of Theater to rebuild connections with each other and celebrate what matters in life. As winter thaws out, there is no better time to safely gather and spark joy together. Events run from April 22 to May 2 and are free to the general public with performances in person and online.

This event is free. Visit the Fine Arts Center Box Office to claim your spot in the audience of this and other Rights of Spring Festival events.

Amherst College Department of Music to host free virtual performances

AMHERST – The Amherst College Department of Music presents a virtual performance of unjustly neglected masterpieces by Black composers for the concert hall performed by the Amherst College Symphony Orchestra: “Black Music Matters - Part One” Saturday, April 17 at 7 p.m. on the Music Department Events Live Stream page. The event is free. Go to www.amherst.edu/go/musicstream.

More than fifty gifted student classical instrumentalists currently in residence on the Amherst College campus showcase their talents in all-new content ranging from string quartets, brass and woodwind quintets, to small chamber orchestras. Featured composers include Scott Joplin, William Grant Still, Florence Price, Samuel Coleridge-

Taylor, George Walker, Margaret Bonds, Nathaniel Dett, Tania Léon, Joseph Boulogne Chevalier de Saint-Georges, and Harry T. Burleigh.

For a complete listing of upcoming Amherst College Department of Music events, please visit us on the web: <https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/music/events>.



Amherst College Symphony Orchestra to host virtual concert: “Black Music Matters” on Saturday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

Courtesy photo

Autism Connections holds 30th annual conference

REGION – April is Autism Awareness month, and Autism Connections, the Western Massachusetts Autism Center serving families and individuals in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties, is hosting its 30th Annual Autism Conference on April 29.

The day-long virtual educational conference brings together hundreds of parents, caregivers, educators, people with autism, self-advocates, professionals, organizations and service providers to build awareness and knowledge, be inspired and make meaningful connections.

“The conference is virtual this year, but the engagement that people associate with the annual conference will be the same,” said Karen Serra, director of Autism Connections.

“We know how busy people’s days are right now,” Serra said, “we are thrilled to be able to offer all who register access to recordings of the conference until December 2021.”

Morning and afternoon breakout sessions led by experts will focus on topics as they relate to autism, including “Boundaries and Relationships,” “I Used to Be Bullied for Having Autism – Here’s When it Stopped,” “Combating Diagnostic Disparities in African Americans,” “Individualized College Support for Students in Need of Transition Services” and many more.

Educator, writer, and global advocate Morénike Giwa Onaiwu is the morning keynote speaker, and will also present a breakout session titled, “Forged by Fire: The Intersection of Race, Disability, and Gender.”

Stacey Gordon, an American puppeteer who is best known for portraying Julia, a four-year-old female Muppet with autism on Sesame Street, is the afternoon keynote speaker. Stacey, who is the mom of a child with autism, will also present a breakout session on “Puppeteering for Parents and Professionals” on connecting with children through puppets.

This year’s event is made possible in part thanks to the generosity of Presenting Sponsor Radcliffe is the Reason and Arthur Too! Fight for Autism.

For more information about Autism Connections or the 30th Annual Autism Conference, visit AutismConnectionsMa.org or email autismconnections@pathlightgroup.org.



Community Foundation awards \$1.3 million in grants

Grants target organizations supporting individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

SPRINGFIELD – The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts (CFWM) has awarded \$1.3 million in new grants to support local programs providing eviction prevention, mental health and food insecurity assistance to those impacted by COVID-19. The grants are from the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley, which to date has awarded \$10.2 million to 182 organizations in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

More than 700 donors, including individuals, foundations, businesses and \$4.4 million from the statewide Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, have contributed to CFWM’s COVID-19 Response Fund. Donors continue to give to the fund every week. Gifts can be made online at: www.community-foundation.org/donate-now.

To date, CFWM has leveraged almost \$12 million in gifts for COVID grantmaking to nonprofits in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

The church Tabernáculo de Gozo (TDG), located on Sumner Avenue in Springfield, was one of the community organizations that received a grant in the latest round. According to Pastor Henry Garcia, “These monies assisted about 90 people in Springfield and the surrounding community. TDG helped individuals with big utility bills that were behind such as electricity bills, gas bills and rents in arrears. We also

assisted with COVID-19 protection needs such as hand sanitizer, sanitizer wipes and face tissue. The Tabernáculo de Gozo church is very grateful to our sister Maria Arrias for providing the contact and to the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.”

According to Katie Zobel, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, “Our grant making continues to evolve to meet the demands placed on the social infrastructure of our region as a result of the pandemic. More people are struggling to stay in their homes as a result of the devastating consequences of COVID-19 on our economy. Food insecurity continues to plague the region and there is a marked increase in individuals and families needing behavioral health care services. This latest round is aimed at these critical areas of need.”

Organizations who received the new round of COVID-19 Response grants include:

Friends Food Pantry (Springfield); Amherst Survival Center; Behavioral Health Network (Springfield); Bethany Assembly of God Food Pantry (Agawam); Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke; Caring Health Center (Springfield); Catholic Charities Agency of the Diocese of Springfield;

Center for Human Development (Springfield); Clinical & Support Options (Northampton); Community Action Pioneer Valley (Greenfield); Community Health Center of Franklin County (Greenfield); Community Legal Aid; Community Survival Center (Springfield); Easthampton Community Center;

Franklin Area Survival Center

(Turners Falls); Franklin County Community Meals Program (Greenfield); Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (Turners Falls); Gandara Mental Health Center (West Springfield); Good Neighbors Food Pantry (Charlemont); Greater Springfield Senior Services; Greater Westfield Emergency Food Pantry; Health Law Advocates; Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry (Belchertown);

Highland-Valley Elder Services (Northampton); Hilltown Churches Food Pantry (Ashfield); Hilltown Community Health Centers (Worthington); Holyoke Health Center; Iglesia Tabernacolo de Gozo (Springfield); Jubilee Cupboard Food Pantry (Ware); LifePath (Greenfield); Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen and Pantry (Chicopee); MANNA Soup Kitchen (Northampton);

Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (Agawam); Mental Health Association (Springfield); NAMI Western Massachusetts (Agawam); Neighbors Helping Neighbors (South Hadley); Oasis Food Pantry (Springfield); Open Pantry Community Services (Springfield); Palmer Food Share; Rachel’s Table (Springfield); Reaping the Harvest (Springfield); River Valley Counseling (Holyoke); Root Studio (Turners Falls); Safe Passage (Northampton); Seeds of Solidarity Education Center (Orange); ServiceNet (Northampton); Spring of Hope Church of God in Christ Food Pantry (Springfield);

Springfield No One Leaves; Springfield Partners for Community Action; Stone Soup Café (Greenfield); The Salvation Army - Springfield

Corps; The Salvation Army - Greenfield Corps; The Salvation Army - Holyoke Corps; Valley Opportunity Council (Chicopee); Victory Temple Church of God in Christ (West Springfield); Wales Community Pantry; Way Finders (Springfield); Wendell Good Neighbors; Western Massachusetts Training Consortium (Holyoke); WestMass Elder Care (Holyoke); Womanshelter Companeros (Holyoke); YWCA of Western Massachusetts (Springfield).

The Community Foundation’s response to the COVID-19 crisis has been multifaceted. In March 2020, CFWM began grantmaking to respond to the pandemic, providing emergency grants to support nonprofits serving those most vulnerable to the crisis. In October 2020, CFWM awarded \$2 million in Stabilization Grants to 70 nonprofits that had been negatively impacted by the pandemic financially. The Foundation has also provided non-monetary support through trainings for nonprofits. In response to the deep impact on local artists, CFWM’s Valley Creates program has provided training and capital grants to artists.

In February, CFWM expects to award grants to organizations directly supporting immigrant populations impacted by COVID-19.

CFWM also re-launched Valley Gives in 2020, the “one-stop-giving” online platform, to connect donors with local nonprofits struggling to provide vital community programs and services-particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. Formerly a single giving day event, Valley Gives will remain “open” for 2021 and will give nonprofits a needed fundraising boost.

CLINIC, from page 1

Center as a clinic because many people didn’t know and still don’t. The space at the center is properly cleaned before and after the clinic, as everyone understands the importance of proper cleaning and disinfecting before such an important event. There are 20 nurses who are operating the clinic and performing vaccinations, to keep the line of people constant and moving.

Murphy said he was present at the clinic for two reasons; the first he and city officials want to make the community as healthy as possible, and the second reason being to promote the location and have more residents visiting. Murphy mentions that a high school junior could be as healthy as can be but that they should still get the vaccine to ensure ones surrounding family doesn’t

get sick. He advocates that people should protect themselves beforehand to help protect the people in their bubble and the remainder of the community.

“So this is crucial that we get these things done and we do it as a community. I’m going to compliment him [Gonsalves], I want to compliment his staff, I want to thank Action Ambulance and the Holyoke Community College Nursing Program, and the Senior Center, the Council-on-Aging for putting this together,” Murphy said. “It is crucial that we get our numbers down, that we get our full quality regular life back as soon as possible, and to do it we all have to work together.”

Residents should consider the weekly clinics at the Senior Center among other options within town, and for more information or options residents should visit the city website at holyoke.org

CANDIDATES, from page 1

be mayor with political gamesmanship guru, Jeffrey Chesky. This means, unfortunately, that Holyokers can expect more dirt to flush into this race as Sullivan surrenders control to a puppet master.”

Sullivan answered back through his public relations representative Ben Mann.

Mann said Lisi’s accusation against Sullivan for interrupting the meeting for political gain would “not be dignified with a response.”

Mann also issued a press release that doubled-down on Sullivan’s statements at the meeting. His press release calls for Lisi to step down as chair of the Ordinance Committee, stating the campaign contributions she is receiving from marijuana companies are a

conflict of interest.

“Our city has a wonderful opportunity to rebuild itself into a manufacturing hub for robotics and cannabis,” Sullivan said. “It is critical that as elected officials we put our city’s interest before outside interests. As elected officials we must hold ourselves to the highest standards – and can never put our personal political interests before the public interest.

“Rebecca needs to step down as Committee Chair and recuse herself from all ordinance business that effects the cannabis industry. Personally, I would recommend she returns these contributions or donate them to a Holyoke non-profit.”

The two will also face off against School Committee Vice Chair Devin Sheehan in a primary in September to narrow the race to two candidates.

Poetry Corner

A Rose

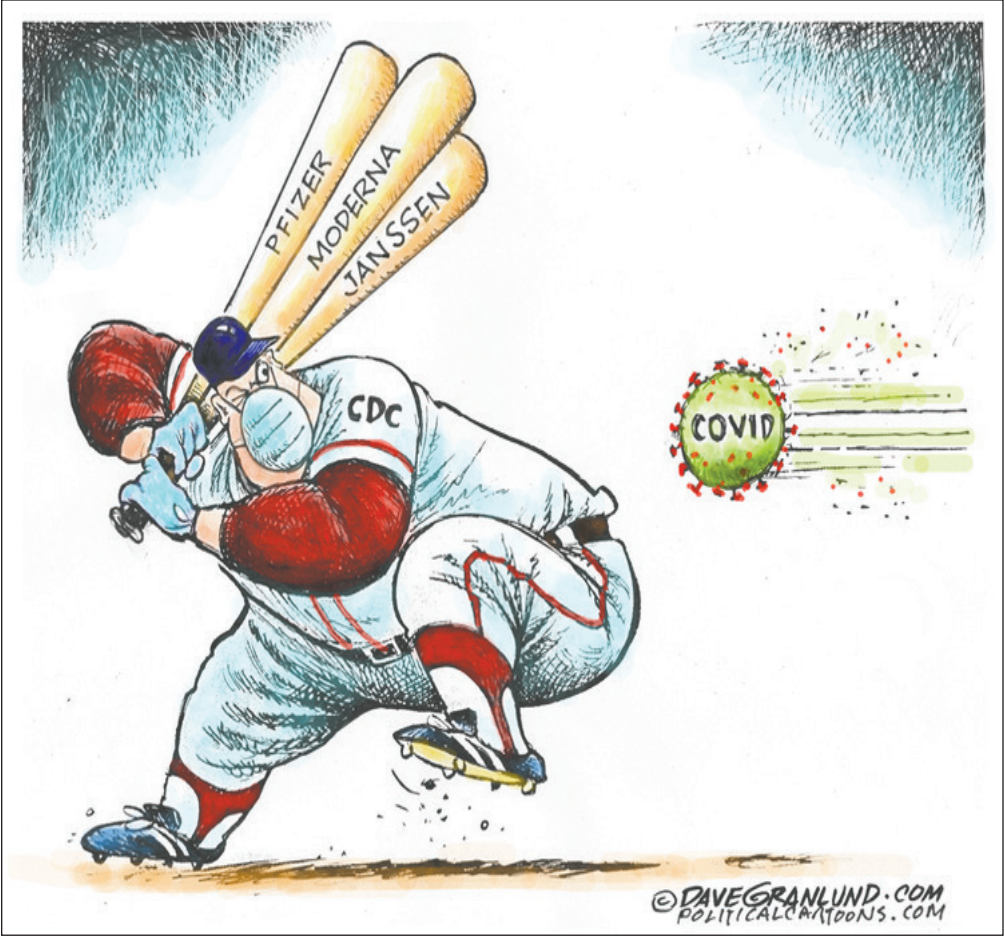
by Thomas J. Kennedy

A terrible terrified beauty
with crimson bleakness and stride.

Blossoming forth to an awakened world
her mysticism and pride.

Set in thorns so quivering like
pendants on an African Queen —

A Rose indeed.
A terrible beauty born.

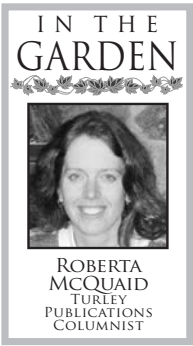


Guest Column

A Sunday sojourn, garden style

I enjoyed getting out into the garden last weekend, making my way around various parts of the yard that required attention. First stop, the perennial borders. As much as I love raking leaves, I raked the same gardens last month. It is always discouraging when you have to repeat something that you already did. Blame it on the massive oak tree in front of my house that just recently shed its leaves!

Why does it hold on to some of its leaves throughout the winter, anyway? I read some interesting hypotheses recently, explaining that the oak and its cousin the beech, are either evolutionarily delayed, or quite ahead of their time, depending on how you look at it. You see, we have the evergreens and we have deciduous trees. Then we have these trees in the middle. But what benefit could marcescence (holding on to dead leaves) be to the tree? One theory suggests that dead leaves covering the lower part of the tree protect vulnerable buds from deer browsing. Another says that the old leaves offer the buds measurable cold protection. I found yet two more explanations targeting moisture conservation, implying that the leaves funnel snow (I.e. water) to the base of the tree and that when the dead leaves fall they are the start of a moisture retentive mulch positioned exactly where the tree needs it the most, around the drip line. Very



cool, indeed. Yet another thing to awe about creation, as if there weren't enough already!

While I was outside I took advantage of impending rain, and decided that there was no time like the present to lime and top dress my garlic with compost. This meant visiting the compost pile, and you guessed it, raking off a layer of oak leaves before giving it a few good turns, revealing the "black gold"

beneath, teaming with worms. It's really neat to think that all those banana peels, egg shells, orange rinds and the like mixed with said leaves and grass clipping made this food for my garden. I filled a couple of buckets worth and headed over to the row of garlic. I was actually shocked to see that it had sprouted a good five inches in the 10 days or so I had been out of the garden. Better to get this task accomplished almost late than never, I guess. I pulled back the much, laid a layer of compost, then reset the mulch and sprinkled the whole bed with a bit of lime. I really should get my soil tested, but I remember reading something years ago that always said never to think about growing alliums in anything but sweet soil, so there you go. This is the second year that I planted my garlic, laid a layer of cardboard on top and then mulched the whole shebang. It is off to another great start, so it seems. The

cardboard helps prevent weeds and conserve moisture.

I also gave some lime to my lupines. It's what I was taught to do a million years ago and still do it, even though some sources say it is not needed. There is one bed, closer to my house that has been growing lupines far longer than the 10 years we've been here. In year two they flower, drop their seed and new plants germinate, sometimes with very little fan fare and usually in a spot where you least expect it or would desire it for perfect placement. Whether it is too close to another plant, too close to the front of the border or somewhere else not part of the plan, no worries. The volunteer always gets to stay because if you move it, chances are you will sever the tap root and lose the plant. And a June without lupines is too sad to risk it. The only time I have ever attempted moving a lupine seedling is when it has only its first or second true leaf, and then very, very carefully.

Have fun with wherever you are led on your next afternoon in the garden!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Can I still suspend my Social Security benefits?

By Russell Gloor

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Dear Rusty: Is it still possible to suspend Social Security benefits for a time? And, if so, how often? Signed: Curious Senior

Dear Curious Senior: If you have already reached your full retirement age and are receiving Social Security benefits that you claimed earlier, you can voluntarily suspend your benefits to earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) and get a higher benefit amount when your payments are resumed. While your benefit payments are suspended, you will earn an additional .67% for each full month of suspension (8% per full year of suspension). If you wish to do so, you can suspend until you are 70 years old, after which you will no longer receive Delayed Retirement Credits, and your benefit will have reached maximum.

At age 70, Social Security will automatically restart your benefit at the higher amount,

as appropriate for the number of DRCs you earned while suspended. If you prefer or need the money sooner, you can request that your benefit be restarted earlier than age 70.

You can voluntarily suspend and restart benefits more than once if that is necessary, but the process requires some lead time to stop/restart benefits and there are other important factors to consider. If you suspend your personal Social Security retirement benefit now to gain a higher payment amount later, while you are suspended no other benefits based on your record (such as a spousal or other dependent benefits) will be paid.

And, if you currently have your Medicare premium deducted from your Social Security benefit, suspending your Social Security benefits will require you to make alternate arrangements for direct payment of your Medicare premium(s). You would need to pay your Medicare premium via mail or by direct withdrawal from your bank account, or by

charging a credit/debit card. If you decide to suspend your Social Security payments, you will need to contact Social Security directly at 1-800-772-1213, or call your local Social Security office to do so. When requesting your benefit suspension, you can also make arrangements through Social Security to pay your Medicare premium separately.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



The Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"When life
gives you
more than
you can
stand,
kneel."

Anonymous

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Why reforming the filibuster matters

By Lee H. Hamilton

COMMENTS ON CONGRESS

As Washington turns its attention to infrastructure and other matters of policy, the Senate filibuster isn't commanding quite the same headlines as it did a few weeks back. But that's only because the issue is percolating behind the scenes. At some point, it will return to the limelight.

And when it does, you should understand what's at stake. Because as obscure as it seems, it actually goes to the heart of how we operate as a democracy.

The key point to remember is that as the country's population has shifted, a growing number of senators have come to represent a shrinking portion of Americans. In the House, this doesn't matter as much, since districts are apportioned by population. But in the Senate, current rules require 60 senators to agree to move a measure forward, with certain exceptions. This means that 41 senators can block most legislation, so in theory, the senators coming from the 21 smallest states—who together represent less than 12 percent of the US population—can keep the nation's agenda from moving forward.

It's hard to believe the country's founders would think this makes sense. And it's certainly a far cry from government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

In particular, it means that legislative initiatives that appear to have great popular support—including infrastructure spending, certain gun control measures, a higher minimum wage, even a legitimate path to citizenship for undocumented

immigrants—will face tough sledding in the Senate. This is because it is remarkably easy

for the leader of the Senate minority, Republican Mitch McConnell, to muster the 41 votes he needs simply to block legislation from moving forward. It's a silent and powerful parliamentary move: Without Americans as a whole or senators' constituents being any the wiser, bills die without coming up for a vote and there are no fingerprints on the murder weapon.

Now, the Senate wasn't designed to be like the House, and there's a lot to be said for maintaining rules that slow legislation down and ensure that the majority can't simply get what it wants without negotiating. But the key word is "negotiating"—when the filibuster is used simply to ensure that a president and elected majority can't get a bill considered, it's become something else. So while there appears to be little appetite in the Senate for ending the filibuster outright, there's strong incentive to explore alternatives.

These would be in keeping with a long history of filibuster reforms in the Senate: budget reconciliation starting in the 1970s allowed many bills related to taxing and spending to move forward with a simple majority; in 1975, the Senate changed the number of votes needed to move a bill forward from 67 to 60; and more recently, the Senate carved out exemptions on confirmation votes. In other words, there is precedent for change.

The options include expanding the breadth of bills that are exempt from the 60-vote requirement to move forward.

Or the Senate could require more members (right now it's just one) to force a so-called "cloture" vote, which brings the filibuster into play. Or it could reduce the 60-vote requirement, either for all bills or for particular kinds. Or, as some senators seem to favor, it could revive the requirement that senators intent on blocking legislation actually must get up and talk about it—which would have some drawbacks but at least would make it clear who's standing in the way.

The Senate's rules are a big rea-

son we have a Congress that struggles to get things done—and a big reason our democracy seems to be hamstrung. I believe wholeheartedly in representative democracy, and in not trying to shortcut it or to restrict it: Proposals in front of Congress should be able to get a full debate and an up-or-down vote in which Americans' elected representatives make clear where they stand. That's how we hold them accountable and how legisla-

See FILIBUSTER, page 7

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)

4. Ceramic jars

9. Monetary units

14. Alias

15. "Superman" actor

16. Britonic tribe

17. Shorten

18. LA Dodgers manager

20. Hoarded

22. Theatrically portray

23. Noah's grandson

24. Dependent

28. Peyton's little brother

29. Cools the house

30. Principle part of

31. Type of wrap

33. Peels

37. Commercial

38. Make an attempt

39. Arrange in steps

41. U. Utah athlete

42. Old English

43. Trade

44. Nostrils

46. Ticket seller ___Hub

49. Of I

50. Institute legal proceedings against

51. Takes apart

55. Doorway

58. Long int'l river

59. Trailblazing athlete

60. Former CBS News host

64. Sign language

65. Badgerlike mammal

66. Thin strips of wood

67. Brooklyn hoopster

68. Portents of good or evil

69. Footwear

70. When you think you'll arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. Batflower genus

2. Predatory seabirds

3. Fish farm

4. Arrangements

5. Go in advance of others

6. Bulgarian monetary unit

7. "___ Maria"

8. W. African ethnoreligious group

9. Wild Asian oxen genus

10. Vinegary

11. To this

12. Explosive

13. Female sibling

19. Orlando museum (abbr.)

21. Type of hoop

24. About Holy Father

25. Academic environment

26. Extremely angry

27. Surrenders

31. Swiss mountain pass

32. Sharp mountain ridge

34. Erases

35. Spielberg's alien

36. Absurd

40. Dorm worker

41. Used to make pesticides

45. The sister of your father or mother

47. A way to let know

48. Can't produce much vegetation

52. Small streams

53. Folk singer DiFranco

54. Weights

56. Start over

57. Black Sea resort city

59. Wimbledon champ

60. Corporate executive (abbr.)

61. Unskilled actor who overacts

62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

63. Of or relating to ears

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

STOP FRAUD

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Jennifer Sattler: Detective of the Crime Investigation Bureau, Holyoke Police Department

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12:00pm-1:30pm (lunch will be served)

4:30pm-6:00pm (dinner will be served)

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- Signs your identity has been stolen
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Art spotlight – Angelo Ferraro

I have always been interested in art from very early in my life. As a child, I would draw battle ships and animals and color them in with pencils. I was always fascinated by how I could form shapes using shading and color. I would try to illustrate something I saw in nature or on T.V.

In High School I was awarded best art student for my drawings of animals and people. After graduating from art school in Westport, CT in 1961, where my principal study was in illustration and animation, I worked as an artist illustrator for Eastern Etching in Chicopee for three years. However, I left the art field professionally for monetary reasons. I retired from Hasbro Games in 2007 as Vice President of reliability engineering and continued to paint as a hobby.

My choice of medium, until recently has always been oil-based paint but I have recently developed an allergy to solvents and switched to water-based oils. They are adequate, but seem to lack some intensity,

vibrance, and opacity.

I have won awards for my work including best in show at the West Springfield Art and Craft Show also best oil painting in an art show in Suffield, CT. My work has been featured at the West Springfield Public Library. I am a member of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans. I can be contacted by email at gijoe123@msn.com or phone (413) 530-2000.



The Agawam Cultural Council is spotlighting art this month. The art of Angelo Ferraro is displayed. Submitted photos



Live music returns to 141 Main Street

AGAWAM – Celebrating our 12th year at this location 141 Main Street will be hosting seven live music nights with dinner on Saturdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Every party has their own table outside on the patio, on the grass, or inside if preferred. This year we will be adding a tent on the grass throughout the summer season for your use as well. Last summer was a sell out each concert so reserve now on our website- 141-main-street.com. Here's a glimpse at our first three:

May 15 – Joe Saimeri – West Springfield native's golden voice will leave you speechless with so many great American songbook favorites like "After the Loving", "Delilah", "The Green, Green Grass of Home", "The Way It Used To Be", "She's A Lady". Joe often performs great hits by artists such as Tom Jones & Englebert, Kenny Rodgers, Michael Bolton, Frank Sinatra and many more.

June 5 – Grayson Ty - Western Massachusetts-based singer-songwriter Grayson Ty has shared the stage with American Idol winner Nick Fradiani, Heather Maloney (Signature Sounds), and Crystal Bowersox (American Idol runner-up) among others. Believe earned regional and international acclaim as Grayson toured extensively. Entirely unpretentious, Grayson brings audiences together with his honest, heartfelt lyrics, and soulful, soothing voice.

June 19 – A Ray of Elvis - Ray Guilmette is a 10-time international award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist and has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Japan. For over 20 years, Guilmette has amazed and inspired people with his honest, heartfelt performances. In this area Ray needs no introduction, he's loved by all.

141 Main Street Deli in Agawam is pleased to announce that our beautiful patio is open for outside dining. Servers are available upon request outside or inside. All health regulations will be carefully monitored for your safety and comfort. Details for our hours of operation, menu, and events are on our website 141-MainStreet.com or call 413 821-9881.

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Joe Saimeri will be the first act at 141 Main Street this year.



Grayson Ty performs on June 5.



Ray Guilmette performs on June 19.

Submitted photos

FILIBUSTER, from page 6

tive bodies go about the hard work of finding broadly acceptable solutions to difficult challenges. The filibuster allows a small group of them to sidestep all that.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Knights pick up win



Last Thursday, the Fall 2 season continued with boys basketball action at Holyoke High School. Belchertown and Holyoke would never usually match up, but with fewer teams playing and COVID issues shutting down games, the matchup came to fruition. Belchertown gave Holyoke a close game, but Holyoke was able to come out on top 58-50. Left to right, Adrix Madera makes his way down the court. Lordi Smith lines up his free throw. Chauncey Ruiz changes direction in mid-air to shoot. Moises Silva reaches out on a shot.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Racing action kicks off at Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, Conn. — Hudson, NH's Derek Griffith went wire-to-wire to capture the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Thompson 75 at the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10. Griffith grabbed the lead in the first corner and was on a rail from there, claiming victory in the headliner for the afternoon session of the 82nd Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park season opener.

Griffith's win kept the

young star perfect on the PASS Super Late Model season. He captured both PASS National Easter Bunny 150 events at North Carolina's Hickory Motor Speedway the previous weekend. Now Griffith also has a win in the PASS North championship opener.

It took less than 500 feet for Griffith to get to the front at Thompson. He started second.

See RACING, page 11



Sean Newcomb also picked up a win.

Submitted photos



Keith Rocco was a winner at last weekend's Icebreaker event.

Gameplay largely unaffected in baseball modifications

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — While gameplay will remain largely the same, many high school baseball players will have to change a number of habits at least to start the baseball season in May.

Baseball is a game of superstition, habitual repetition of certain motions and the needed to do things like spit seeds and chew gum.

But under the modifications to the sport made by the Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs, players will have to refrain some certain behaviors, wear masks, and maintain distance despite the game itself involving a lot of distance.

The EEA, which has been making modifications to high school sports and working with the MIAA to ensure safe play during the pandemic, did not have to do much to

change how the game of baseball is played. But a number of the "dirty" habits needed to be curtailed to make it safer.

Consumption and spitting of sunflower and other seeds are prohibited this season. Players also cannot chew or spit during games. Spitting is also a major habit in baseball, and is banned for high schoolers and adults.

In high school, following warm-ups each half-inning, it is common for infielders, the catcher, and pitcher to have a brief "hype-up" huddle. That action is now banned to limit close contact among players.

If a coach wants to bring the infield into a huddle to discuss a strategy, six-foot distancing is required. Otherwise, the EEA is encouraging coaches to limit mound visits in general, and typically just to one coach, a pitcher, and a catcher.

See BASEBALL, page 10

Randolph's experience with the Blue Sox gave him a new outlook on the game of baseball, and he could not be more excited to begin his journey as head coach. According to Randolph, "this opportunity pretty much changed my life."

The spring season is scheduled to begin on April 26 with games beginning a week or two later. The spring season will go to July 3.

RACING, from page 9

ond after winning the second qualifying heat, and when polesitter Ben Rowe had trouble coming up to speed, Griffith and several others shot past.

The only thing that could slow Griffith was the race’s lone caution on lap 3 when Garrett Hall tagged the backstretch wall. When the field went green again, Griffith put the hammer down. Rowley, MA’s Eddie “The Outlaw” MacDonald gave chase as best he could, and could narrow the gap some in traffic, but Griffith restored his margin every time they got clear.

Even as multiple other drivers had strong runs go sour in the unseasonable warm weather, Griffith never wavered. He ultimately put more than half the field a lap down and cruised to an impressive win.

“I love it here,” Griffith said after the race. “I tell people all the time about how cool the Icebreaker is and how big of a weekend it is. You know we travel everywhere and not everybody understands how big of a weekend it is — and not just for PASS...so to come get another (win) here is pretty cool. It’s definitely one to mark off.”

MacDonald finished second with Center Conway, NH’s Gabe Brown a comfortable third. Rowe recovered from his early troubles and held off Rowland Robinson Jr. for fourth. Reigning PASS North champion D.J. Shaw, Johnny Clark, Corey Casagrande, Mike Scorzelli, and Dan Winter rounded out the top-10.

Berlin, CT’s Keith Rocco came out on top of a barn-burner to win the Sunoco Modified season opener. Rocco started fourth in the 30-lap main event and took the lead from Oxford, MA’s Troy Talman on a lap-9 restart after Christian Turissi’s spin.

Wolcott, CT’s Mike Christopher moved into the runner-up spot following the second caution on lap 13. Rocco and Christopher pulled away from the field nose-to-tail for several laps, but with seven to go, the real bat-

tle began. Christopher dove inside Rocco entering turn 3, the first of what would be six passes in as many laps. Rocco, however, kept putting his Modified out front at the start/finish line where it counted.

As the duo got the two-to-go signal, Christopher finally had the lead by a nose at the line and cleared Rocco entered turn one. Rocco went back underneath him in the third turn, and the two banged nerf bars. Christopher slid up the track, allowing Rocco to get away for another victory in his dominating Thompson Speedway career.

Talman and Todd Owen also got past Christopher thanks to the late contact, finishing second and third in the final rundown. Christopher had to settle for fourth. Danny Cates, Jonathan Puleo, John Lowinski-Loh, Richard Williams, Jason Sundeen, and Paul LaPlante completed the top-10.

Franklin, MA’s Bobby Santos III kicked off his Icebreaker weekend with a victory in the 25-lap NEMA LITES Midgets feature. Santos started seventh in the Matt and Bob Seymour-owned #1, and after a slow start, began him march to the front. He inherited the second spot on lap 13 when Dan Cugini’s Midget shut down, then caught leader Jim Santa Maria with eight laps to go.

One lap later, Santos drove beneath Santa Maria on the front stretch and cleared him entering turn 1. It was no contest from there as Santos sailed to the victory.

Santa Maria came in second followed by Jake Trainor. Kyle Valeri, Richie Coy, Paul Scally, Christopher Vose, Tiana Kibbe, Matt Seavy, and Cugini finched fourth through 10th.

Plymouth, MA Paul Newcomb ended a frenetic two days on a high note by winning the 25-lap Street Stock Open feature. Newcomb started fourth and found an opening early, muscling beneath polesitter Ryan Waterman in turn four to take the lead after two laps.

Candia, NH’s Jimmy Renfrew Jr. was the only driver who could even come close to hanging with Newcomb on the ensuing green-flag run. Renfrew got a shot on a

restart with eight laps to go after Zachary Mead’s spin. But the #00 got loose exiting turn four the following lap. Renfrew eventually slid back to fourth as Newcomb marched to the victory.

Waterman finished second with Kyle Gero third. Joe Kohler, Wayne Coury, Bobby Segar Jr., Devin McConologue, Justin Travis, and Nick Hovey also earned top-10 finishes.

Freeport, NY’s Gerard Giordano Jr. won a photo finish over Warwick, RI’s Ryan Vanasse in the 35-lap EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge feature. Vanasse had pulled away in the middle stages of the event, but Giordano had the better long-run truck and ran him down with seven laps to go. The fourth and final caution came out soon after, setting up a four-lap dash to the finish.

Vanasse initially cleared Giordano on the restart. With two laps to go, though, Giordano ducked back inside. Entered turn for the final time, the duo touched and got sideways. After gathering it up, they banged doors again coming to the line. It was Giordano, the former series champion, edging Vanasse by 0.015 seconds for the win.

Waterford, CT’s Emma Monahan had a strong run for third. Duane Noll, Connor Souza, Joe Arena, Andy Lindeman, Todd Taylor, Joseph Coates, and Randy Coates opened their season with top-10 finishes.

Sterling, CT’s Jared Roy continued his domination of the Thompson Mini Stocks with a victory in their 15-lap feature. Roy came from seventh on the starting grid to run down Steven Michalski at the halfway mark. After ducking inside Michalski as the leaders completed lap nine, Roy completed the pass entering turn one a circuit later.

Coming out of turn four the next time around, Michalski broke loose and spun to bring out the race’s only caution. Roy had a rear-view mirror full of Gales Ferry, CT’s Thomas Silva over the final four laps, but held on for the victory. Dave Trudeau, Douglas Curry, and Charles Canfield completed the top-five.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Hampden
The Superior Court
CIVIL DOCKET
#2179CV00148**
RE: Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust V-E vs Susan I Sheehan, et al
**ORDER OF NOTICE
BY PUBLICATION**
TO: **Susan I Sheehan**, an individual residing at 25 Breton Lane, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, **Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of James R Jaycox**, persons of places unknown, **Jeffrey W Jaycox**, an individual residing at 18 Mountainview Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01 020; **in the County of Hampden** and **Patti Jaycox Youmell**, an individual residing at 113 Park Street, Apt A, Easthampton, Massachusetts 01 027; **in the County of Hampshire**; **all in said Commonwealth**;
AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED 2003 as amended:
Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust V-E, a trust with offices in c/o American Mortgage Investment Partners

Management, LLC, 3020 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 180, Seal Beach, California 90740 claiming to be the holder by assignment of mortgage covering the real property known as and numbered 25 Breton Lane, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040
given by James R Jaycox and Susan I Sheehan to CitiFinancial Services, Inc dated May 22,2007
recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 16704, Page 285, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.
If you are entitled to the benefits of the Service Members' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at Springfield in said County on or before **05/13/21** or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.
Witness, Judith Fabricant, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Springfield, Massachusetts, this 1st day of April, 2021
Laura S. Gentile, Clerk of the Courts
04/16/2021

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court
Dept.
HD21E0009PP1**
To Jennifer Garbiel, Trustee of the Jennifer J Garbiel Investment Trust, as tenant in common, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.
A petition has been presented to said Court by Jodine Powers, of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as tenants in common an undivided part or share of land lying in Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that she desires that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Twenty-five Thousand (\$325,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supple-

mental memorandum filed with the Court.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **7th day of June, 2021**, the return day of this citation.
Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this fifth day of April, 2021.
Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate & Family Court
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2021
**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
102 CABOT OVERHEAD
BRIDGE CRANE
REPLACEMENT**
Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., May 11, 2021** at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.
Bid Deposit:
A bid deposit equal to 5% of the total value of the bid must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer's, or cashier's check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates:
Prevailing Wage Rates set by the Mass. Dept. of Labor & Industries shall be paid to all people engaged in work under this contract.
Site Visit:
In order to be considered, Bidders shall participate in a **mandatory** site visit to be held at the 102 Cabot facility. Proposals received from Bidders who have not participated in the site visit will automatically be rejected. Due to COVID-19, site visits will be scheduled individually. To schedule a site visit, contact Sa-rah LaRose at (413) 427-4804 or by email at slarose@hged.com
Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com
The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke.
Please mark sealed envelopes **"102 Cabot Overhead Bridge Crane Replacement"** and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
04/16/2021

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for Riverside Cannabis, LLC a proposed marijuana cultivator and Blossom Flower, LLC delivery operator is scheduled for **Thursday, May 5, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.** at 1 Cabot St, Holyoke, MA 01040, the proposed location. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Social distancing and face masks required. If you are unable to attend, please email: damaris.aponte42@gmail.com with questions
04/16/2021
COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING
A Community Outreach Meeting for First City Provisions, Inc., a proposed vertical marijuana establishment (cultivation, manufacturing, retail) is scheduled for **May 3, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.** at the proposed location: 89 South St. Holyoke.
There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions at the meeting. Masks and social distancing will be required. If you are unable to attend, please email questions to: lamontclemons@scelopainting.com
04/16/2021

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The Sun

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

It's SUMMER CAMP Sign-Up Time!

Keep in touch with kids at camp

Summer camp is an exciting way for children to spend their extended vacations from the classroom. Camps cater to various interests, including sports, crafts and even technological hobbies.

Children who attend overnight camps may spend several nights away from home. Some kids take this in stride, while others, possibly away from home for the first time, may experience some homesickness. Staying in touch while the kids are at camp can help alleviate fears and show children their parents care.

Camps now handle communication issues differently than they might have when today's parents were campers. While it once common for campers to send handwritten letters or short missives home to mom and dad, technology has changed that. Today's campers may have access to email accounts, or they even may be allowed to bring mobile phones along. This can facilitate communication, but it also may take away from the camping experience.

Parents need to find a balance between what might be too little or too much contact with campers. After all, camp is kids' chance to grow independent for a few days or weeks.

- Learn camp rules. The camp will likely provide information regarding correspondence. Camps may permit parents to send one-way emails and regular mail, but limit campers to handwritten letters only. Determine if mobile phones are allowed or should be left at home. Knowing the rules can help parents and kids plan accordingly.

- Pack correspondence supplies. Send kids to camp with fun papers, stickers, pens, and other crafty items. This way they'll be inspired to write home once or twice. Provide brief lessons on how to address an envelope for campers

who may not know how.

- Check blogs and texts. Some camps may blog about campers' progress, post information on social media or send out mass texts. These messages can reassure parents that their youngsters are doing just fine. Figure out which tech options are available from camp administrators.

- Send a care package. Treat the campers to some supplies from home. Pack camp-approved snacks and other reminders of home. Be sure to include enough for the entire cabin and your son or daughter will be the camp star.

- Expect some silence. If camp is going well and campers' days are fun-filled, they may be too busy for

daily correspondence. Parents may get nervous when they don't routinely see or hear from their children, but chances are everything is going swimmingly.

The camp experience is often harder on parents than children, as campers have their friends and activities to keep them busy. Brief communication helps campers grow more confident and independent.

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It's SUMMER CAMP Sign-Up Time!

Prevent dehydration during the dog days of summer

A person's desire to be outdoors can sometimes be at odds with the outdoors itself. The dead of winter tends to be a time of year when people know to stay indoors, but the dog days of summer can be dangerous as well.

Heat-related diseases like dehydration can put lives at risk. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, children and people over the age of 60 are particularly susceptible to dehydration. Understanding dehydration and how to prevent it is essential for anyone who plans to spend time outside during the summer.

What is dehydration?

The U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that a dehydrated body does not have enough fluid and electrolytes to work properly. On an average day, the human body needs about three quarts of water. But the USNLM notes that anyone planning to spend time



outside in the hot sun needs significantly more water than that to avoid dehydration.

What are the signs of dehydration?

Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that people experience dehydration differently. However, there are some common symptoms that indicate someone is dehydrated. These symptoms include:

- thirst,
- less frequent urina-

tion,

- dry skin,
- fatigue,
- light-headedness,
- dizziness,
- confusion, and
- dry mouth and mucous membranes,
- increased heart rate and breathing.

Children who are dehydrated may exhibit additional symptoms, including dry mouth and tongue; no tears and crying; no wet diapers for several hours; sunken abdomen, eyes or cheeks; listlessness; irritability; and skin

that does not flatten when pinched and released.

How to prevent dehydration

Drinking plenty of fluids when working or playing in the sun is one way to prevent dehydration. Being sure to take in more fluid than you are losing is another way to prevent dehydration. Anyone, and especially people who sweat a lot, should keep a close eye on fluid loss when spending time outdoors in the summer. Sports drinks that help people maintain their electrolyte balance, such as Gatorade, can help prevent dehydration as well. Pedialyte is often recommended for sick infants or children who have experienced vomiting, as it can help restore electrolyte balance that was adversely affected when kids became sick. The solution can be equally effective at restoring electrolyte balance that was thrown off during heat exposure.

Dehydration poses a significant health risk at any time of year, but people who spend time out in the summer heat may be especially vulnerable. Limiting time spent outdoors on hot days and keeping a close eye on your fluid intake and fluid levels can help prevent dehydration.



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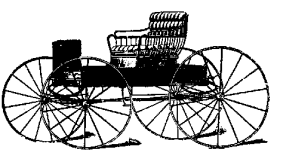
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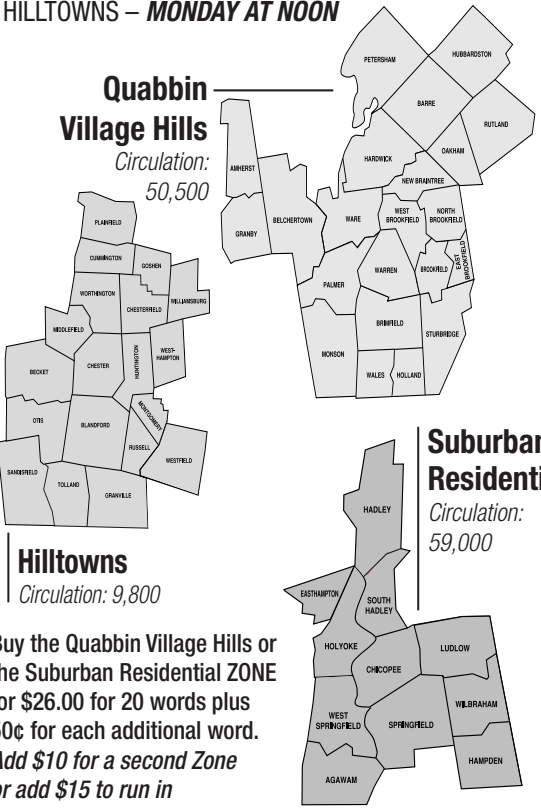
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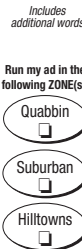
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